AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

first transmitting means for transmitting force to a first tissue region, and including a first flange engagement structure;

second transmitting means for transmitting force to a second tissue region, and including a second flange engagement structure; and

an expansion means, including a screw expansion mechanism having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end including a first L-shaped flange defined by ~~having~~ a first vertical plate that receives the screw expansion mechanism and a first horizontal plate extending from ~~that is substantially perpendicular to~~ the first vertical plate to engage ~~and that engages~~ the first flange engagement structure of the first transmitting means, the first flange engagement structure sized to receive the first horizontal plate, the distal end including a second L-shaped flange defined by ~~having~~ a second vertical plate connected to the distal end of the screw expansion mechanism and a second horizontal plate extending from ~~that is substantially perpendicular to~~ the second vertical plate to engage ~~and that engages~~ the second flange engagement structure of the second transmitting means, the second flange engagement structure sized to receive the second horizontal plate,

the expansion means for exerting force distracting the first transmitting means from the second transmitting means to create a distraction space for formation of distracted connective tissue,

wherein the first L-shaped flange disengages from the first flange engagement structure and the L-shaped second flange disengages from the second flange engagement structure,

wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, the second transmitting means and the expansion means comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the first transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the structure for attachment to bone comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 5, wherein the screw is at least in part biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 7 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 9 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is attached to bone via at least one screw.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 10, wherein the screw is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 12 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, second transmitting means or the expansion means comprise a malleable or heat malleable material.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the first tissue region comprises connective tissue.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the first tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second tissue region comprises connective tissue.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, further comprising an activation means.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein the activation means is directly or indirectly engaged with expansion means.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 20, wherein the activation means is reversibly engaged with the expansion means.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the activation means is external to the subject.

Claim 25-41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

a first transmitting structure that transmits force to a first tissue region;

a second transmitting structure that transmits force to a second tissue region; and

an expansion structure that distracts the first transmitting structure from the second transmitting structure to create a distraction space for formation of distracted connective tissue, the expansion structure further comprising:

a screw expansion mechanism;

a proximal end having a first L-shaped flange defined by ~~having~~ a first vertical plate that receives the screw expansion mechanism and a first horizontal plate extending from ~~that is substantially perpendicular to~~ the first vertical plate to engage ~~and that engages~~ a first slot of the first transmitting structure, the first slot sized to receive the first horizontal plate; and

a distal end having a second L-shaped flange defined by ~~having~~ a second vertical plate connected to a distal end of the screw expansion mechanism and a second horizontal plate extending from ~~that is substantially perpendicular to~~ the second vertical plate to engage ~~and that engages~~ a second slot of the second transmitting structure, the second slot sized to receive the second horizontal plate;

wherein at least one of the first transmitting structure, the second transmitting structure and the expansion structure comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 42, wherein the first and second transmitting structures each comprise one of a plate, a stent, a mesh or an implant.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 42, further including attachment structures that attach the first and second transmitting structures to the first and second tissues regions, respectively.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 44, wherein the attachment structures comprise one of screws, staples, tacks, pins, or nails.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 44, wherein the attachment structures comprise a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 44, wherein the first and second tissue regions each comprise one of bone or connective tissue.

Claim 48 (Canceled).